

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP 03/06094

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 6	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1 - 6	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 6	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Claims 1 to 6

Document 1: WO 01/37007 A1 (Kaneka Corp.), 25 May 2001

Document 1 discloses a biaxially oriented transparent film comprising a thermoplastic resin having substituted and/or unsubstituted imide groups in side chains and a thermoplastic resin having substituted and/or unsubstituted phenyl groups and nitrile groups in side chains, and having the same constitution for in-plane phase difference and phase difference in the thickness direction as that of the inventions described in claims 1 to 6.

Document 2: JP 2002-107512 A (Nitto Denko Corp.), 10 April 2002

Document 2 discloses a light-diffusing sheet wherein a resin coating layer comprising an ultraviolet ray-curing resin and having on its surface a fine irregular shape and a low refractive index layer comprising polysiloxane or the like are formed on at least one surface of a transparent substrate.

Documents 1 and 2 both disclose inventions pertaining to optical films used to improve the visibility

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of image display devices, and thus, a person skilled in the art could easily conceive of deriving the same constitution as that of the inventions described in present claims 1 to 6 by applying the transparent film disclosed in document 1 as the transparent substrate disclosed in document 2.

Application No. 10/754,537

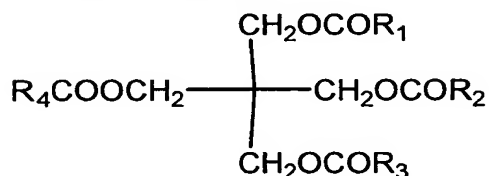
Amendment dated June 23, 2005

Response to Office Action dated March 23, 2005

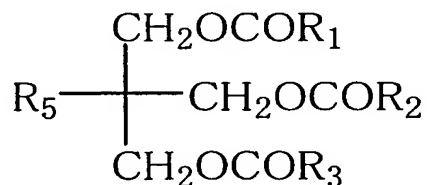
10. (original) A photothermographic material according to claim 4, wherein a surface material of the roller contains at least one of silicone rubber and fluoro rubber.

11. (original) A photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the slipping agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the following general formulae (S-I), (S-II), and (S-III):

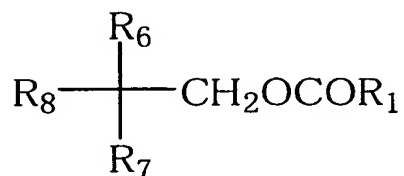
General formula (S-I)



General formula (S-II)



General formula (S-III)

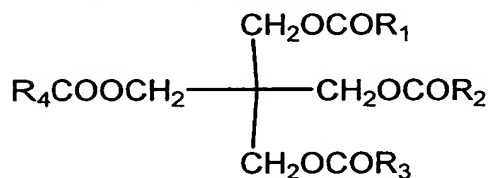


wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ each independently represent an alkyl group, alkenyl group, alkynyl group, cycloalkyl group or aryl group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms; R₅ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, and R₆, R₇, and R₈ each independently represent a methylol group or an alkyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

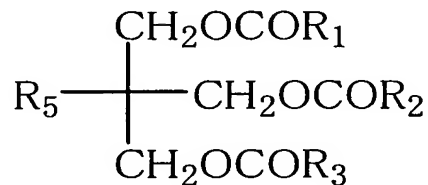
Application No. 10/754,537
 Amendment dated June 23, 2005
 Response to Office Action dated March 23, 2005

12. (original) A photothermographic material according to claim 4, wherein the slipping agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the following general formulae (S-I), (S-II), and (S-III):

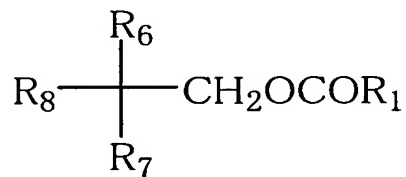
General formula (S-I)



General formula (S-II)



General formula (S-III)



wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 each independently represent an alkyl group, alkenyl group, alkynyl group, cycloalkyl group or aryl group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms; R_5 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, and R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 each independently represent a methylol group or an alkyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

13. (original) A photothermographic material according to

Application No. 10/754,537
Amendment dated June 23, 2005
Response to Office Action dated March 23, 2005

claim 1, further containing a fluoro compound having a fluoro alkyl group having at least 2 carbon atoms and no more than 13 fluorine atoms.

14. (original) A photothermographic material according to claim 1, further containing a fluoro compound having a fluoro alkyl group having at least 2 carbon atoms and no more than 12 fluorine atoms.

15. (original) A photothermographic material according to claim 14, wherein the fluoro compound has a fluoro alkyl group represented by the following general formula (A):

General formula (A)

-Rc-Re-W

wherein Rc represents an alkylene group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; Re represents a perfluoro alkylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms; and W represents a hydrogen atom, fluorine atom or alkyl group.

16. (original) A photothermographic material according to claim 15, wherein the fluoro compound has two or more fluoro alkyl groups represented by general formula (A) in one molecule.

17. (original) A photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive layer is an outermost layer.

18. (original) A method of forming images using the photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the photothermographic material is heat developed under at least one

Application No. 10/754,537
Amendment dated June 23, 2005
Response to Office Action dated March 23, 2005

condition selected from the group consisting of the following conditions (1) and (2):

- (1) at a temperature from 100°C to 140°C for 18 sec or less,
- (2) at a linear developing speed of 23 mm/s or higher.

19. (original) A method of forming images using the photothermographic material according to claim 4, wherein the photothermographic material is heat developed under at least one condition selected from the group consisting of the following conditions (1) and (2):

- (1) at a temperature from 100°C to 140°C for 18 sec or less,
- (2) at a linear developing speed of 23 mm/s or higher.